GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5829
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
FREE AIR TICKETS TO RETIRED OFFICIALS OF AI/ IA
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) provide free air tickets to certain category of their retired officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total financial burden on AI/IA on this account during the last three years;

(d) the details of the Government directives and resolutions of boards of AI/IA in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such unlimited and unregulated air facility to retired officers of AI/IA?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b) and (c): : Yes, Sir. The grant of passages to retired officers of Air India and Indian Airlines are part of their service conditions and are in line with industry practice. In Air India and Indian Airlines, the entitlement of air passage to its retired employees is as under:

Air India

	Free	Concessional
Retired employees on completion of 20 years of service	02 on international sector	02 only domestic,in lieu of 90%
Retired employees on completion of 25 years of service	-do- for Self, spouse & children	-do- Unlimited on domestic sectors
Retired employees on completion of 20 years of service	Eligible for interline passages on Indian Airlines issued once a year.	
Retired Executives of	Eligible for 100% free passage on	

Deputy General Manager firm basis on Indian Airlines on

level and above. reciprocal basis.

Indian Airlines

Free Concessional (95%)

Retired employees on 01 02

completion of 15 years

of service

Retired after 20 01 03

Years of service

Retired after 25 02 04

years of service

Retired Deputy GMs/GMs/ 02 04

Directors (irrespective

of length of service and

on subject to load basis)

and Deputy MDs & above
(on firm basis)

Air passage entitlement to retired employees is subject to seat availability basis (except for Deputy GM level and above in Air India and Deputy MDs and above level officers in Indian Airlines). As such, there is practically no revenue dilution to the company on this account.

(d) and (e): The grant of passages is regulated under the Air India Employees' Passage Regulations, 1987 which lays down the number of passages to be granted to the employees as per the length of service, etc. Air India Employees Passage Regulations were issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 45 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 with the previous approval of the Board and the Government.

The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines had in their meetings held on 27.06.1994 and 18.06.1997 considered and approved respectively proposals relating to passage facility to retired employees and passage facility for Dy. GM, GM and Director level officers. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, vide their letter dated 16th December, 1996 had issued Presidential Directives for free passages to the Directors on the Board of Air India and Indian Airlines.